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ALGERIA. 19 Feb.—The bodies of six French parachutists who had been ambushed south-east of the Aurès mountains were found by a search party.

23 Feb.—Algerian rebels twice attacked French supply convoys in the Aurès mountains. In the second attack one man was killed and several injured when a lorry fell into a ravine.

26 Feb.—Two French soldiers were killed and three seriously wounded when rebels fired on a military ambulance near Mont Chouneche.

27 Feb.—It was learned that one man had been killed and eight persons wounded in terrorist actions in the past forty-eight hours. All were north Africans.

ARGENTINA. 1 Mar.—The Federal Government took over the administration of the three provinces of Santa Fe, Santiago del Estero, and Tucuman. The provincial Parliaments were being dissolved and the Governors dismissed. A preamble to the decree authorizing federal intervention said that the 'people's organizations' had denounced irregularities, and a subsequent inquiry had revealed 'extreme passivity' on the part of the authorities as well as 'lack of initiative'.

AUSTRALIA. 18 Feb.—Hydrogen Bomb Tests. The Minister of Supply said that the Australian Government would not allow any hydrogen bomb tests or experiments connected with them to take place in Australia.

22 Feb.—Atomic Information. Mr Beale, Minister of Supply, told a meeting of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission that Australia had made a very advantageous arrangement with Britain for a full exchange of knowledge on the industrial use of atomic power. As a result Australia would have the benefit of knowledge gained from many years of research in England costing hundreds of millions. Australia would thus be level with Britain and ahead of most, if not of all, other countries. The fruits of the reactor which Australia would build would be put into a common pool with Britain.

25 Feb.—Floods. Serious and widespread floods were reported in New South Wales in which it was estimated that at least fifty people had lost their lives and that about 40,000 had been rendered homeless. Enormous damage had been caused over an area of about 30,000 square miles.

27 Feb.—Victorian Labour Party. A special conference of the Victorian Labour Party ended in the election of a new executive composed of supporters of Dr Evatt to replace the old one dominated by representatives of the Roman Catholic Action movement.

2 Mar.—British Government contribution for flood relief (*see Great Britain*).

AUSTRIA. 23 Feb.—The Russian military authorities ordered the seizure of the day's issue of the Socialist newspaper, *Die Weltpresse*, which had a cartoon ridiculing the Soviet Government.

25 Feb.—Dr Figl, Foreign Minister, in a speech in Vienna, called for an end to unjustified propaganda attacks against Austria from the east. He described as 'idiotic' recent Communist charges that Austria was preparing to send a contingent to join N.A.T.O.

BRITISH SOMALILAND. 23 Feb.—British statement on hand-over of territory to Ethiopia (*see Great Britain*).

BURMA. 21 Feb.—Joint Burmese-Siamese discussions on border problems (*see Siam*).

28 Feb.—East German-Burmese trade agreement (*see Germany*).

CHILE. 18 Feb.—**Antarctica.** Senor Tobias Barros, Minister of Defence, inaugurated a new naval base at Pendulum Bay, Deception Islands, in Antarctica.

20 Feb.—The Foreign Ministry announced that the British Government had protested against the establishment of the base at Pendulum Bay.

25 Feb.—Señor Tobias Barros, Defence Minister, said in Santiago that Chile might establish an air station on Deception Island to be used as a place of call for aircraft flying to the South Pole.

CHINA. (*For Communist-Nationalist hostilities, see also Formosa*).

17 Feb.—**Hostilities.** Chinese artillery shelled Quemoy. The fire was returned by the Nationalists

18 Feb.—Nationalist claim to have sunk twenty-one vessels (*see Formosa*).

20 Feb.—**Currency.** It was officially announced that the Government was increasing the face value of its currency 10,000 times, as a result of which the value of the pound sterling would become 6.893 yuan instead of 68,930.

22 Feb.—**Hostilities.** Communist fighter-bombers attacked Nanchisan, an island south of the Tachens and about 140 miles north of Formosa.

General Peng Teh-huai, Defence Minister, said at Port Arthur that if any one dared to launch an aggressive war the People's Republic and the Soviet Union would support each other at all times. He accused the United States of trying to frighten China by blackmail and threats, and warned the Americans not to make a miscalculation for, if they did, nothing but 'the most deplorable and ignominious end' would await them.

26 Feb.—**Nanchi Island.** Peking Radio announced the occupation of Nanchi Island by Communist forces, following the withdrawal of the Chinese Nationalists.

27 Feb.—British pamphlet on 'Treatment of British Prisoners of War in Korea' (*see Great Britain*).

Release of two Americans (*see Hong Kong*).

DENMARK. 17 Feb.—**Rumania. Mr Cimbu.** The Foreign Ministry published an exchange of Notes with Rumania arising out of the

Denmark (*continued*)

request for asylum of Mr Cimbu, an employee at the Rumanian Legation. A Rumanian Note of 14 February accused Mr Cimbu of having stolen 6,000 kroner and demanded that he be handed over. The Danish reply said that Mr Cimbu's request for asylum was still being examined and that he had at once voluntarily handed over the 6,000 kroner. The police watch on the Legation was necessary for security reasons and for protection.

23 Feb.—The Government decided that Jon Cimbu should be given asylum and that he should be prosecuted in the Danish courts for stealing 6,000 kroner from the Rumanian Legation.

EGYPT. 17 Feb.—Canal Zone. The British Embassy issued a statement giving details of the progress made in implementing the Anglo-Egyptian agreement. It showed that the withdrawal of British forces from the Canal Zone was ahead of the prescribed time-table.

20 Feb.—Great Britain. Sir Anthony Eden, British Foreign Secretary, who was on his way to the Manila Pact conference at Bangkok, broke his journey at Cairo for talks with Colonel Nasser, Prime Minister. A joint statement after their talks said they had reviewed the world situation and the task of promoting peace, and had noted with satisfaction the progress of Anglo-Egyptian relations since the signing of the canal base agreement.

21 Feb.—Jordan. King Hussein of Jordan arrived on a six-day official visit.

Visit of Major Salem to Lebanon (*see Lebanon*).

23 Feb.—U.S. Aid. Four U.S.-Egyptian agreements were signed in Cairo providing that \$23,337,000 out of a total of \$40 m. American aid to Egypt would be spent on four major development projects—road improvement; a pipeline for drinking water at Abou Homoss in the northern delta; improvement of the port of Alexandria and of inland waterways; and the purchase of equipment for the new Ministry of Public Works machine shops. The Egyptian Government agreed to spend in cash, commodities and services \$32,607,000 for the completion of the projects of which these activities were part, and to purchase equipment and arrange for contracts under the agreements.

24 Feb.—Turco-Iraqi Pact. Following the signature in Baghdad of the Turco-Iraqi pact, a Government spokesman said that Egypt would invite the signatories of the Arab security pact, except Iraq, to meet to revise the agreement. Egypt would ask for the expulsion of Iraq from the pact; otherwise she would herself abandon the pact or divest herself of her obligations towards Iraq under its provisions.

28 Feb. et seq.—Israeli-Egyptian Border Engagement (*see Israel*).

Proposal for new Arab security pact (*see Syria*).

1 Mar.—Border Engagement. The Foreign Minister received the Ambassadors of the five permanent member States of the Security Council, and the Turkish Ambassador (the president of the Council for March) and informed them of the grave view taken by the Egyptian Government of the incident near Gaza and of the decision to make a

strong protest to the United Nations and to request an urgent meeting of the Security Council.

2 Mar.—The Government requested the President of the Security Council to summon an urgent meeting to consider the clash of 28 February near Gaza. It said Egyptian casualties amounted to thirty-nine killed and thirty-two wounded.

Iraqi assurance of support for Egypt (*see Iraq*).

Rioting by Arab refugees occurred in Gaza and other towns in the border region. Many of the refugees attacked and looted United Nations relief stores, shouting: 'We want arms—not your food,' and demanding to be allowed to go home. Five were reported wounded when police fired cautionary shots.

ETHIOPIA. 23 Feb.—British statement on hand-over of territory (*see Great Britain*).

FORMOSA. (*For Communist-Nationalist hostilities, see also China*).

17 Feb.—Communist artillery shelled Quemoy. The fire was returned by the Nationalist batteries.

18 Feb.—The Nationalists claimed that twenty-one Communist vessels, including five gunboats, eight landing craft, and eight junks, had been sunk by Nationalist air and naval units in an attack on a Communist convoy off Taishan, 120 miles north-west of Formosa.

Mr Yeh, Foreign Minister, in a press interview in Manila, emphasized that he had not signed anything which gave any country, including the United States, the right to prevent the Nationalists by force or argument from returning to the mainland. As to whether the people wanted them back, he pointed to the fact that 82 per cent of the prisoners in Korea chose to throw in their lot with the Nationalists. He said neither the Communists nor the Nationalists would agree to the two-China theory.

19 Feb.—The Chinese Nationalist authorities claimed to have sunk fifteen more junks. It was estimated that 3,000 soldiers were lost with the junks.

20 Feb.—The Chinese Nationalists stated that the Chinese Communists had landed on four uninhabited islands thirteen miles from Nanchishan, the Nationalists' northernmost outpost, 140 miles north of Formosa and twenty-three miles from the Chinese mainland.

The Nationalist Air Force attacked Chinese Communist shipping around the Taishan islands, and claimed to have destroyed a 1,000 ton landing craft and eight large wooden craft and to have damaged a 1,000 ton gunboat and a 2,000 ton transport.

22 Feb.—Nationalist aircraft bombed junks near Nanchisan and sank some boats off Peichishan and Peilunshan, the small islands about thirteen miles north of Nanchisan which had been occupied by the Communists.

23 Feb.—Chinese Nationalist aircraft attacked the Taishan islands and Peichi Shan island. The Air Force claimed to have sunk one gunboat.

Formosa (continued)

24 Feb.—Nanchisan. Following a night of Nationalist raids in the Nanchisan area, the Government announced that the island's 2,000 civilians had been withdrawn.

25 Feb.—The Chinese Nationalist authorities announced the withdrawal of their forces from the Nanchi islands.

FRANCE. 17 Feb.—Government Crisis: M. Pineau's Attempt. M. Pineau (Socialist) announced the formation of a Government composed of members of the Socialist and Radical parties, the M.R.P., the U.D.S.R. and three Gaullists who had accepted technical portfolios on a personal basis.

19 Feb.—The Assembly refused by 312 votes to 268 to approve M. Pineau's Government after he had outlined a programme which included ratification of the Paris agreements accompanied by parallel east-west negotiations; the completion of home rule negotiations in Tunisia; a possible increase in company tax; and a three-months' extension of the special powers granted to M. Mendès-France's Government. It was the first Government to be presented for approval by a simple majority under the new constitutional procedure.

President Coty invited M. Edgar Faure (Radical Socialist) to try to form a new Government.

23 Feb.—M. Faure's Government. The Assembly approved by 369 votes to 210 the Government formed by M. Faure which was drawn from every party except the Communists, Socialists, and the small oversea independent group. The members were: *Minister Delegate*, M. Palewski (Gaullist); *Justice*, M. Robert Schuman (M.R.P.); *Foreign Affairs*, M. Pinay (Independent Republican); *Interior*, M. Bourges-Manoury (Radical); *Defence*, General Koenig (Gaullist); *Finance*, M. Pflimlin (M.R.P.); *Overseas Territories*, M. Teitgen (M.R.P.); *Education*, M. Berthoin (Radical); *Public Works and Transport*, General Corniglion-Molinier (Gaullist); *Industry and Commerce*, M. Morice (Radical); *Agriculture*, M. Sourbet (Peasant Independent); *Labour*, M. Macon (M.R.P.); *Reconstruction and Housing*, M. Duchet (Republican Independent); *Health*, M. Lafay (Radical); *Ex-Service Men*, M. Triboulet (Gaullist); *Moroccan and Tunisian Affairs*, M. Joly (A.R.S.); *Merchant Navy*, M. Antier (Peasant); *Posts and Telegraphs*, M. Bonnefous (U.D.S.R.).

In outlining his domestic policy, M. Faure undertook, by 30 June 1956, to raise the index of industrial production from 154 to 180; to raise the standard of living and total agricultural revenue by at least 7 per cent; and to balance foreign trade without any foreign aid of a 'non-economic' character. He also aimed at preparing before April a plan of social reform providing, *inter alia*, for wage increases linked with the rise in national income, and expressed his intention of tabling before June a general tax reform Bill to eliminate excessive burdens.

In regard to foreign policy, M. Faure said his Government would seek to complete ratification of the Paris agreements in the shortest possible time. As soon as they were ratified he would propose that a

study be undertaken with France's allies of the conditions for negotiations both in Europe and Asia. Fidelity to the Atlantic pact and a search for peace through every possibility for negotiation were the twin paths they would follow. As for North Africa, M. Faure said he would carry on essentially the policy of his predecessor.

28 Feb.—Tunisia. The Government decided to send wheat and other foodstuffs immediately to Tunisia to relieve the shortage caused by drought.

GERMANY. 17 Feb.—West Germany. Saar Agreement. The Foreign Affairs Committee of the Bundestag approved the Franco-German agreement on the Saar by 16 votes to 13. The three Free Democratic members and the Refugee Party representative voted with the Social Democrats in opposition.

Paris Agreements. The national executive and national committee of the trade union federation, at a joint meeting in Düsseldorf, passed a resolution asking that ratification of the Paris treaties be postponed until after four-Power talks had been held to ascertain the conditions for reunification. The resolution appealed to the four Powers, as well as to the Federal Government and Parliament, to undertake new steps at once to restore German unity in peace and freedom.

Education. The Chief Ministers of the *Länder*, at a conference in Düsseldorf, signed a ten-year agreement designed to bring the educational systems in the various *Länder* more into uniformity. It reduced the number of types of secondary schools from fourteen to five and brought their syllabuses roughly into line.

West Berlin. During a meeting in west Berlin addressed by Herr Blücher, Federal deputy Chancellor, about 500 persons were forcibly removed for creating disturbances. According to the police 239 were arrested, of whom all but twenty-six were east Berliners.

18 Feb.—East Germany. The east German People's Chamber sent a letter to the Speaker of the Federal Parliament proposing joint consultations on the subject of all-German elections.

20 Feb.—West Germany. Saar Agreement. A national conference of the B.H.E. (Refugee Party) decided that the Party should oppose the Saar agreement on the ground that it imposed on 'German people and German territory a diminution of the incontestable right to belong to Germany'.

Turco-German trade agreement (*see Turkey*).

21 Feb.—East Germany. Trials. The district court at Frankfurt-am-Oder sentenced one person to life imprisonment and six others to prison terms ranging from seven to fifteen years, on charges of espionage.

Paris Agreements. A delegation of women members of the Volkshammer left east Berlin for Bonn to 'prepare an honest understanding' with women members of the Bundestag. The object was to dissuade members from voting for the Paris agreements.

West Germany. Paris Agreements. The Bundestag committee on European security issued its report on the Paris agreements in

Germany (continued)

preparation for the second reading debate. It proposed that the Federal Republic should be represented on the standing group of N.A.T.O. in Washington, and that the European commands of N.A.T.O. should be rearranged so that the whole of the Federal Republic came within one command.

22 Feb.—East Germany. Dr John, the former head of a federal security department who defected to the east in July 1954, sent a letter to the president of the west German Bundestag saying that the Soviet offer of free elections under international control was meant, and should be taken, seriously. He expressed the view that a new west German Wehrmacht incorporated into N.A.T.O. would develop 'its own dynamic against the east' and involve the N.A.T.O. armies in attempts to 'liberate the peoples of the east'.

23 Feb.—West Germany. Saar Agreement. The Free Democratic parliamentary party confirmed that it would vote for the Paris treaties but against the Saar agreement. In an explanatory statement it said that its decision on the Saar agreement was neither a vote-catching manoeuvre nor a nationalist attitude but an expression of the conviction that the Saar was juridically a part of Germany and that it would be wrong for Germans to put any impediments in the way of reunification.

24 Feb.—East Germany. Dr Dieckmann, president of the east German Volkskammer, told a press conference in east Berlin that the letter sent to the president of the west German Bundestag suggesting talks between members of the legislatures had not been acknowledged. He spoke of the disappointment felt at the rebuff and of the conviction that imminent danger would accompany ratification of the Paris agreements. He claimed that the majority of the Bundestag was divorced from the will of the west German people, 90 per cent of whom, he said, were opposed to the Paris treaties.

West Germany. Paris Agreements. The Bundestag began the debate on the second reading of the Paris agreements following the rejection of a Social Democratic motion proposing its postponement until steps had been taken to explore the possibility of securing international agreement on reunification.

The police broke up several Communist anti-rearmament demonstrations in Bonn while the debate was going on.

25 Feb.—The day's debate on the Paris agreements was almost wholly devoted to the Franco-German agreement on the Saar. Dr Mommer, for the Social Democrats called the agreement 'opportunistic' and its provisions for political freedom illusory, and he stressed the importance of the principle of free elections in the Saar for the reunification of Germany.

Dr Adenauer, Federal Chancellor, denied that the agreement put the separation of the Saar from Germany on a permanent basis, and he revealed that in Paris in October he had refused a French demand for a definitive agreement, preferring rather to let the whole body of treaties come to nothing. He recalled the British and American undertakings given in 1947 to support the French claim on the Saar when the peace

treaty came to be negotiated, and claimed that one advantage of the agreement was that these undertakings would lapse with the entry into force of the new Saar statute. Later, in reply to a question whether this claim was based on firm assurances, Dr Adenauer said it was an intimation received from a competent quarter but he had no documents setting it out.

Dr Becker, for the Free Democrats, said that it had been a basic principle of the coalition in the first Bundestag and in the 1953 elections that Europeanization of the Saar was as much a separation from Germany as French annexation would be. This, he said, was still the Free Democrats' view, and he accused Dr Adenauer of responsibility for the rift in the coalition. They were all theoretically in agreement that the Saar was German territory and its population German nationals, but in practice, he said, under the agreement Saarlanders would not get German passports, nor enjoy the protection of German missions; a customs barrier would remain between the Saar and Germany. France would have the currency, the foreign exchange earnings of the territory, and the control of the banking and credit system. The division from Germany would remain.

Dr Adenauer immediately strongly denounced Dr Becker's speech describing it as nationalist and as 'the worst possible service that could have been rendered to the German interest'. He pointed out that no one in negotiating could have everything exactly as one wanted, and that it was necessary to trust the Saar people to make use of their freedom because they were Germans.

Dr Arndt, Social Democrat, referred to Dr Adenauer's claim that the British and American undertakings of 1947 would lapse on the entry into force of the agreement. He said that if there had been a binding assurance to France, then only France could release them from it and this she had no intention of doing. He quoted a passage of the French *exposé de motifs* to the ratification Bill which said that when a peace treaty came to be negotiated France would insist on continuance of the Saar statute and that she would 'naturally' have the support of the British and U.S. Governments in accordance with their promises of 1947. Dr Arndt went on to quote Mr Bevin's statements in 1947 to show that in fact there had never been a juridically binding British or American undertaking to France about the Saar; there had merely been political agreement to French policy at that time, and in fact the two Governments had explicitly reserved their position at the peace treaty.

27 Feb.—Voting. After a debate lasting forty-two hours the Paris agreements passed through their second and third readings in the Bundestag. The voting was as follows: (1) ending of the allied occupation and restoration of German sovereignty—324 votes to 150 (no abstentions); (2) stationing of Allied troops in Germany after restoration of sovereignty—321 votes to 153 (no abstentions); (3) German membership of N.A.T.O. and of Western European Union—314 votes to 157, 2 abstentions; (4) Franco-German agreement on the Saar—263 votes to 202, 9 abstentions.

About two-thirds of the Free Democratic and B.H.E. Refugee

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Germany (*continued*)

parties either opposed or abstained on the Saar agreement. The bulk of the German Party remained loyal to the Government, but a few Christian Democrats including Herr Kaiser, Minister for All-German Affairs, abstained. The Free Democratic Party had instructed members to oppose the agreement and had applied the whip. Of the four F.D.P. Ministers in the Cabinet, Herr Blücher, the Vice-Chancellor, voted for the agreement, Dr Neumaier, Minister of Justice, voted against, and Dr Preusker and Dr Hermann Schäffer, abstained.

Resolutions. The Bundestag together with the Bill passed three declaratory resolutions. The first of these, passed nearly unanimously, recalled the undertakings of the western Powers to pursue the reunification of Germany, and outlined the purposes which should be pursued in negotiations between the west and the Soviet Union (election of an all-German Parliament, adoption of an all-German constitution, and the formation of an all-German Government under international protection). It proposed the setting up of a standing commission consisting of a representative of each of the three western Powers and of the Federal Government, 'to consider all opportunities which offer for the peaceful reunification of Germany, and to work out proposals in order to prepare negotiations with the prospect of success'.

The second resolution said that the Saar agreement did not affect the status of the Saar as a part of Germany within the 1937 frontiers, or of its population as a part of the German nation; that, as envisaged by Article 6 of the Saar agreement, full freedom of political expression of opinion would be established in the Saar, together with the unhindered political activity of individuals, parties, associations, and the press. These freedoms would be maintained after the referendum, and their maintenance would be the prime task of the European commissioner for the Saar. Finally, it asserted that the provisions of the European convention for the maintenance of human rights and basic freedoms were binding in the Saar and would be applied.

The third resolution expressed the deep regret of the Bundestag that the provisions of the Bonn conventions of 1952 relating to former German external assets had been taken over unchanged in the new treaties. It stated a number of 'expectations' for the remedying of the position and the recovery of sequestered German property abroad. In particular it asked for the recovery of German patents and trade marks, and of the former diplomatic and consular property of the Reich, and asked the Federal Government to take the necessary steps to bring this about.

West Berlin. The biennial conference of the west Berlin trade union federation rejected by an overwhelming majority a left-wing resolution calling for demonstrations against ratification of the Paris agreements. An alternative resolution was adopted calling on the executive to press for early four-Power negotiations on the reunification of Germany.

West Germany. Persia. The Shah of Persia and Queen Soraya arrived in Bonn on an official visit.

28 Feb.—East Germany. An east German-Burmese trade agree-

ment was signed providing for an exchange of Burmese products, such as cotton, teak, rubber, silver, and wolfram, for east German machinery and optical instruments.

West Germany. Resignation of Dr Blücher. Dr Blücher, the Free Democratic Vice-Chancellor, offered his resignation to Dr Adenauer. He was the only one of the four Free Democrat members of the Cabinet who had voted for the Saar agreement.

2 Mar.—East Germany. Referendum Proposal. Herr Grotewohl, Prime Minister, speaking in the Volkskammer on the ratification of the Paris agreements by the west German Bundestag, dismissed it as a mere 'parliamentary manoeuvre divorced from the will of the people' and therefore invalid. He suggested a referendum in both parts of Germany at which all citizens over eighteen should be asked to choose between the peaceful reunification of Germany through free all-German elections in 1955 and the Frankfurt manifesto of 30 January, or 'the Paris war treaties'.

West Germany. Herr Ollenhauer, Social Democratic leader, speaking in Bonn, said that any co-operation with the east German Communist regime was out of the question. It had made a mockery in the past of all the aims and ideals contained in the Frankfurt manifesto.

GOLD COAST. 22 Feb.—Budget. The Finance Minister, Mr Gbedemah, presenting the budget, estimated revenue during 1955 at £63·5 m. and expenditure at £63 m. of which £20 m. would be spent on such major development projects as the Volta river scheme and £4 m. on the Tema harbour. Mr Gbedemah said the total value of exports rose by 75 per cent in 1954. Exports to the United States had, however, fallen.

GREAT BRITAIN. 17 Feb.—Statement on Defence. The annual Statement on Defence (Cmd. 9391, S.O., 1s.) was presented to Parliament. It emphasized that the emergence of the thermo-nuclear bomb had posed new and revolutionary defence problems, and it announced that the Government had decided to proceed with the development and production of such weapons. The use of nuclear weapons, it said, was the only means by which the massive preponderance of the Communist world in conventional land forces could be countered in the event of war. The United Kingdom must therefore contribute to the deterrent and build up its own stock of nuclear weapons. Moreover, in making plans for dealing with aggression there must be no flinching from the necessity to use such weapons. The Government considered that the deterrent of the nuclear weapon had 'significantly reduced the risk of war on a major scale'. The statement also emphasized the Government's intention to continue to strive for a practical disarmament scheme, saying that its ultimate aim was the abolition of the use, possession, and manufacture, not only of all nuclear weapons but also of other weapons of mass destruction, together with simultaneous major reductions of conventional armaments and armed forces to agreed levels which would redress the existing Communist superiority.

Great Britain (*continued*)

The statement estimated total defence expenditure in 1955-6 at £1,537 m. or, after receipt of £43 m. in American aid, a net expenditure of £1,494 m. This was £60 m. less than the original estimate of net expenditure in 1954-5. It was stated, however, that the latter would be considerably underspent, mainly because of difficulties in connection with newer equipments and also because of delays in works services.

The proposed allotments of expenditure (not allowing for American aid) were: Admiralty £347 m., War Office £484 m., Air Ministry £540.4 m., Ministry of Supply £147.5 m., Ministry of Defence £18.3 m.

The statement estimated that the number of male recruits would fall to 74,100 and 73,200 respectively in the next two years, compared with a figure of 81,100 in 1954-5, and it said that difficulties were being encountered in building up a hard core of trained men in the services. The broad policy aims for the three services were to build up a better equipped and maintained active fleet and a smaller but better prepared reserve fleet; a smaller, better disposed, more mobile Army; and a more powerful Air Force including, in particular, an effective strategic bomber force. The first squadron of V-bombers would be introduced in 1955. The expansion of Fighter Command had been completed and its re-equipment was proceeding. Reduced commitments overseas enabled a strategic reserve of land forces to be built at home.

The statement outlined civil defence arrangements and announced the decision to form from the Army and R.A.F. reserve forces a Mobile Defence Corps to provide a link between civil organizations and the armed forces in the defence of the home base.

Reviewing the progress in new weapons, the statement said that the stock of nuclear weapons was steadily growing; the development of air-to-air guided missiles had reached an advanced stage and good progress had been made in developing ground-to-air guided missiles. In the naval programme emphasis had been laid on high speed submarines, long-range aircraft, and weapons for use against large warships. An experimental guided-weapon ship was nearing completion.

Freetown Riots. Mr Lennox-Boyd, Colonial Secretary, told the House of Commons that a commission was being appointed to inquire into the Freetown riots of 11 and 12 February.

Sir Godfrey Huggins. It was announced that the Queen had approved the conferment of a viscounty on Sir Godfrey Huggins, Prime Minister of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

18 Feb.—Mr Hermann Field. Mr Hermann Field, the American who had been released after five years' imprisonment in Poland (*see Vol. 10, p. 707*) told a press conference in London that the Polish Government had given him \$50,000 to cover his five years' loss of work and 6,500 Swiss francs for his convalescence in Switzerland after his release.

Italy. A communiqué issued at the conclusion of the visit of Signor Scelba and Signor Martino, the Italian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, said that the two Italian statesmen had had a full exchange of

views with Sir Winston Churchill, Sir Anthony Eden, and other British Ministers. Recent developments in Anglo-Italian relations and the joint diplomatic activity of the two Governments had made possible an even closer and more cordial collaboration between Italy and the United Kingdom. The conversations in London had revealed full agreement between the two Governments. They were determined to do their utmost to safeguard peace, to build up the free world's security, and to preserve the European heritage of civilization. The Ministers reaffirmed their full support of the Atlantic alliance and of other international organizations of which the two countries were members. They agreed to do their utmost to bring the Western European Union into force as soon as possible, and they agreed that the early participation of Federal Germany in this association was essential to western unity and defence. The Ministers confirmed their joint desire that discussions in the W.E.U. working group on the production and standardization of armaments should lead to practical and constructive arrangements in which the United Kingdom and Italy would play a full part. In regard to matters directly concerning Great Britain and Italy, the talks confirmed that there were no longer any serious problems at issue and that relations between the two countries had returned to their old friendliness. They placed on record their determination to seek the further development of these relations.

20 Feb.—British protest at new Chilean base in Antarctica (*see Chile*).

Sir Anthony Eden's talks with Colonel Nasser (*see Egypt*).

21 Feb.—Sir Anthony Eden in Karachi (*see Pakistan*).

New Zealand. It was announced that the Atomic Energy Authority and the New Zealand Government had formed a company to be known as Geothermal Development Limited to operate the joint project for the production of heavy water and electric power from geothermal steam in the Wairakei district of the North Island of New Zealand.

Council of Europe and W.E.U. In a Commons debate on the Council of Europe, Lord John Hope, Under Secretary, Foreign Office, said the different European agencies must go on. No useful purpose would be served by an inquiry into overlapping. It was intended that the Western European Union should have its own assembly, and in secretariat matters there would be the greatest possible integration with the Council of Europe.

22 Feb.—Agreement with Australia on atomic information (*see Australia*).

23 Feb.—S.E.A.T.O. Conference *q.v.*

Labour Party Foreign Policy. The National Executive of the Labour Party passed a resolution urging the Government to make clear to the United States Government that it could not count on British military assistance in any hostilities connected with the Chinese off-shore islands, and to exert their influence with the United States to obtain the withdrawal of Nationalist troops from the islands. The resolution said that a first step towards a settlement should be a cease-fire and the evacuation of all the off-shore islands by the Chinese Nationalists. The admission of a Peking representative to the United Nations

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was an essential part of a Far East settlement. Formosa and the Pescadores should be neutralized by international guarantee and placed under United Nations administration and protection to ensure that in due course the people would be free to make their own choice without intimidation. 'This would involve the withdrawal of Chiang Kai-shek and his principal supporters.'

The National Executive also passed a resolution denouncing the conception of race relations in South Africa which was based on racial superiority and a determination to perpetuate white domination. It expressed the conviction that policy in South Africa was damaging race relations throughout Africa and undermining British attempts to build the foundations of democratic societies there.

Persia. On the departure of the Shah of Persia and Queen Soraya after a private visit to Britain, the Shah read a message in which he said that a new chapter in Anglo-Persian relations had already provided a healthy climate for the firm friendship and close association which was vital to the interests of both countries.

Kenya. The Colonial Secretary announced in the Commons that the Government were prepared to provide a further grant of £10 m. and a further interest-free loan of £4 m. to Kenya in the financial year 1955-6. He added that this assistance would only be called on if needed. So far as could be seen, emergency expenditure in 1955-6 was likely to be about £16 m., towards which Kenya would be able to provide only £2 m.

Refugees. Replying to a question in the Commons, Mr Turton, Under Secretary, Foreign Office, said the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees estimated the number of refugees who had come westward from the Soviet bloc countries during 1954 to be 1,800 excluding refugees to Yugoslavia and excluding those from east to west Germany. None of the 1,800 had made the reverse journey. In the past year 200,000 persons had gone from east to west Germany and about 50,000 from west to east.

Somali Tribes and Ethiopia. Mr Lennox-Boyd, in a statement in the House on his talks with a delegation from Somaliland, explained that no British territory was being transferred to Ethiopia under the agreement of 29 November 1954 as the areas which were being withdrawn from British administration under the agreement had been Ethiopian territory in international law since the Anglo-Ethiopian Treaty of 1897. The war-time agreement by which the areas were under British administration was made without prejudice to Ethiopian sovereignty. The Government had been able to secure certain very important rights for the Protectorate Government and for Protectorate tribes grazing in the areas, but it was not possible to arrange for continuation of British occupation. The agreement had given rise to widespread feeling in Somaliland and a delegation had come to protest against it and to seek a postponement of its implementation, but he (Mr Lennox-Boyd) had had no alternative but to inform them that H.M. Government must abide by its obligations in international law. The Ethiopian

Government had felt unable to agree that the hand-over should be postponed beyond the date laid down in the agreement—28 February.

24 Feb.—Finance. The Bank of England raised the bank rate from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Mr Butler, Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced in the Commons that he was asking the Capital Issues Committee and the banks to adopt a more restrictive attitude towards finance for hire purchase in order to moderate excessive internal demands. He also told the House that he had authorized the Exchange Equalization Account authorities to use wider discretion in operating in markets through which sterling was traded at a discount.

Turco-Iraqi Pact. The Foreign Office issued a statement warmly welcoming the signature of the Turco-Iraqi pact (*see Iraq*).

25 Feb.—Meeting of U.N. Disarmament Sub-Committee (*see United Nations, Disarmament Commission*).

26 Feb.—Disarmament Conference. Proposals put forward by the Soviet delegation at the London disarmament conference were published in the *Daily Worker* in spite of the secrecy of the talks. Leakages had also appeared in Moscow attributed to 'reliable sources in London'. (The editor of the *Daily Worker* subsequently denied that the report represented a leakage. He said it was an echo of proposals already broadcast by Moscow Radio.)

27 Feb.—Korea. The Ministry of Defence issued a pamphlet entitled *Treatment of British Prisoners of War in Korea* (S.O., price 1s.). It described the methods, ranging from indoctrination and moral pressure to brutal physical torture, which were used by the Chinese to try and convert British prisoners to the Communist viewpoint. The report said that very few of the prisoners succumbed, only about forty of the 978 who returned home having become convinced Communists; some of these had Communist leanings before they went to Korea.

28 Feb.—Soviet Note re annulment of Anglo-Soviet treaty (*see U.S.S.R.*).

1 Mar.—Dr Pontecorvo in Russia (*see U.S.S.R.*).

Defence. Sir Winston Churchill, Prime Minister, opening a debate in the Commons on the Government's Statement on Defence, said that when the first comprehensive review of the hydrogen bomb had been made in the United States a year earlier 'the entire foundation of human affairs had been revolutionized and mankind placed in a situation both measureless and laden with doom. . . There is no defence, no absolute defence, against the hydrogen bomb nor is any method in sight by which any country can be completely guaranteed against the devastating effect which even a score might inflict on wide regions. . . The best defence would of course be *bona fide* disarmament all round', but the Prime Minister reminded the House of the gulf between the Soviet Government and the N.A.T.O. Powers which had hitherto prevented agreement, and said 'the whole history and tradition of Russia makes it repugnant to the Soviet Government to accept any practical system of international inspection'. A second difficulty lay in the circumstance that while the west believed the United States to have an overwhelming

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mastery in nuclear weapons, the Communist States had an immense superiority of conventional weapons. 'The problem therefore is to devise a balanced and phased system of disarmament which at no period enables any one of the participants to enjoy an advantage which might endanger the security of the other.' An Anglo-French scheme on these lines had been submitted in 1954 and had been accepted by the late Mr Vyshinsky as a basis of discussion. It was being examined in London (by the disarmament conference). Sir Winston Churchill went on to suggest that if the Soviet Government had not shown much nervousness about American nuclear superiority, that was perhaps because they were sure it would not be used against them aggressively, even in spite of the many forms of provocation. On the other hand the N.A.T.O. Powers had been 'combined together by the continued aggression and advance of the Communists in Asia and Europe. . . There is a widespread feeling throughout the free world that but for American nuclear superiority Europe would already have been reduced to satellite status; that the iron curtain would have reached the Atlantic and the Channel'.

Unless a trustworthy and universal disarmament system could be reached and an effective inspection system established and be actually working, the only sane policy for the free world in the next four years was the Government's policy already adopted of defence through deterrents, and to make her contribution to the deterrent Britain must possess up-to-date weapons and the means of delivering them. It was essential to this policy to have, with the Americans, the strength and numbers to be able to paralyse potential Communist assaults in the first few hours of the war, should it come. Here the Prime Minister observed that he had refrained from using the word Russian as much as possible because it was the Communist Party and its declared ambitions and proselytizing activities that had to be resisted, and that was what made the great world cleavage. He went on to say that any effective deterrent policy must have the power to paralyse administrative, industrial, and naval targets at the outset or shortly after, and he declared that a British contribution was essential because other Powers might not agree with the British view as to which targets should be given first priority. Those targets might be of such cardinal importance that they were a matter of life or death to the country. Meanwhile, he said, the United States had many times the nuclear power of Soviet Russia and far more effective means of delivery. British possession of nuclear weapons of the highest quality and on an appreciable scale with the means of delivery would greatly reinforce the free world's deterrent power and would strengthen her influence in the free world.

After discussing the power of the hydrogen bomb Sir Winston Churchill put forward the view that, in widening the area of mortal danger, it had certainly increased the deterrent on Soviet Russia by putting her enormous space and scattered population on a basis of equality or near equality with the small densely populated British Isles and with western Europe. He believed that so far the Soviet had tested by explosion only a type of hydrogen bomb of intermediate power, but

he said there was every reason to believe that, within the next four, three, or even two years, they would develop more advanced weapons 'and full means to deliver them on North American targets'.

Discussing the possibility of surprise attacks, Sir Winston Churchill said that according to his information the United States was the only country at that time able to deliver a full-scale nuclear attack with hydrogen bombs at a few hours' notice. It was conceivable that the Soviet Union, fearing a nuclear attack before she had caught up with the United States, might attempt to bridge the gulf by a surprise attack with such weapons as she had. An essential part of the deterrent policy was that American superiority reinforced by Britain must be so organized as to make clear that no such surprise attack would prevent immediate retaliation on a far larger scale. For this reason not only must the nuclear superiority of the western Powers be stimulated in every possible way but also the means of delivery. It was known that bases were being established in as many parts of the world as possible and that over all rested the American strategic air force which in itself was a deterrent of the highest order.

The Prime Minister said it was most unlikely that the Soviet Union would embark on major war or a surprise attack during the next three or four years, but by that time, or perhaps before, it might have reached a stage not of parity with the United States and Britain but of saturation—i.e. the point where both sides were capable of inflicting crippling or quasi-mortal injury on the other. It did not follow that the risks of war would be greater; indeed they might be less because both sides would realize that global war would result in mutual annihilation.

Turning to the question of conventional weapons, Sir Winston Churchill said that the policy of the deterrent could not rest on nuclear weapons alone. The defensive shield in western Europe must be maintained. Conventional forces were necessary to deal with local situations as they arose. 'We must do our utmost to hold the Soviet and satellite forces at arm's length in order to prevent short-range air and rocket attack on these islands.' The Communists might well resort to military action in furtherance of their policy of infiltration and encroachment. There might well be limited wars on the Korean model with limited objectives. 'We must be able to play our part in these if called on by the United Nations organization.'

Sir Winston Churchill concluded by adjuring the House never to allow the alliance with the United States to be injured or retarded, saying that its maintenance was the first duty of every person who wished to see peace and the survival of his country.

Mr Shinwell, Labour, moved an amendment regretting that the Statement on Defence, while recognizing the revolutionary effect of thermo-nuclear weapons on the character of warfare and the necessity to rely on a threat to use those weapons as a deterrent against aggression until effective world disarmament had been achieved, failed to make proposals for a reorganization of H.M. forces and of civil defence; to indicate what future expense might be called for; or to explain the grave and admitted deficiencies in weapons already furnished in spite of the

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expenditure on defence of some £4,000 m. over the past three years.

In his speech Mr Shinwell expressed doubt concerning the Government's assumption that in the event of nuclear war Britain would be attacked from the air. According to the Opposition's evidence the Russians before long, if not already, would be capable of launching from sites in east Germany rockets with war-heads of the nuclear variety, capable of reaching London and Paris, and capable of as much destruction—though not so much as an H-bomb—as anything that occurred during the last war. Mr Shinwell expressed agreement with many of Sir Winston Churchill's sentiments, but he indicted the Government for their lack of achievement in planning for the future, for their decision to use nuclear weapons in the event of a conventional attack, and for the absence of adequate or partial protection of the civil population.

2 Mar.—On the second day of the debate, Mr Strachey, Labour, accused the Government of failing to face, in its defence programme, the military consequences of the thermo-nuclear revolution, and he described the decision to reply with nuclear weapons to any aggression in Europe, no matter what form the aggression took, as not only very grave but 'wildly rash' unless the Government could propose reasonably effective measures for civil defence. He urged the Government to take up consistently and test every offer of negotiation made by the Russians.

Mr Selwyn Lloyd, Minister of Supply, said that if there were any sincerity in Russian talk of disarmament the Soviet Union had only to make the London conference a success. If it would discuss the Anglo-French proposals in a reasonable way, progress could be made quickly on a practical disarmament scheme. Mr Lloyd went on to give detailed information about the progress of the aircraft and arms production programme, and he asserted that it was wrong for the Labour Party who had not placed any production contracts while in power and who were responsible for the lag of three or four years behind the United States to blame the Government for not having got the weapons in service.

Mr Bevan, leader of the left wing of the Labour Party, suggested that the Prime Minister would like to have meetings with the Russian leaders but was prevented from doing so by the United States.

Sir Winston Churchill said it was absolutely wrong to suggest that the Government's course had been dictated by the United States. It was true that he would have liked a top-level conference of the three Powers, shortly after Mr Malenkov took power, to see if there were a 'new look'. His colleagues had agreed and he had prepared to go over to see the President in the hope of arranging with him to invite a three-Power conference. However he was struck down by illness and had to put it off, and it was not found possible to persuade President Eisenhower to join in the process. He had also considered the possibility of a dual meeting at some neutral place like Stockholm which might be a sort of 'go-between prelude to a meeting of the three, because we cannot settle anything alone that would be decisive'. But the Soviet Govern-

ment had begun an elaborate process of trying to stop the ratification of E.D.C. and this had stood in the way of further talks.

Mr Bevan said the Prime Minister's statement was complete confirmation of what he had said. He asked the Opposition if they meant in their amendment that nuclear weapons would be used against any sort of aggression, and said that if so then he would not vote for it because such a policy would be answered by the use of nuclear weapons which would involve the destruction of the British nation. In his view the Government's policy amounted to a choice between agreeing with one's enemy or committing suicide.

Mr Attlee, leader of the Opposition, said that Britain's only defence was the power of counter-attack, and in general terms he agreed that deterrence, by the possession of the thermo-nuclear weapon, was the best way of preventing another war.

Mr McMillan, Minister of Defence, said there could be no half-way house in disarmament; any genuine system must be comprehensive and include all weapons both conventional and non-conventional; and it must provide for control by an effective international or supranational authority invested with real power. He declared that while nuclear weapons were necessary as a deterrent to a hot war, a well-planned distribution of the armed forces was an essential element in fighting the cold war. The three services had to be ready for the preparation and prevention of the hot war and for the guarding of freedom in the cold war.

The motion to approve the Government's Statement on Defence was carried by 303 votes to 253 (majority of 50). The Labour amendment was defeated by 107 votes, the voting being 303 to 196. On the division for the amendment 57 Labour members, including Mr Bevan, abstained.

Broadcasts to Europe. Lord John Hope, Under-Secretary, Foreign Office, announced in the Commons the decision to reduce the length of the B.B.C.'s European services by about three hours a day in order to offset rising costs.

Australian Floods. The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the Government had decided to contribute £250,000 for flood relief in New South Wales.

Sir Anthony Eden's broadcast from Kuala Lumpur (*see Malaya*).

Sir Anthony Eden in India (*see India*).

GREECE. 20 Feb.—Turco-Greek river agreement (*see Turkey*).

HONG KONG. 27 Feb.—Release of Two Americans by China.

Mr Bersohn and Mrs Rickett, American civilians, arrived in Hong Kong after being released by the Chinese Communists. They had spent three years in Chinese prisons and Mrs Rickett's husband was still held in Peking. Both stated that they had engaged in espionage for the United States Government. Correspondents who interviewed them said they both appeared to have been thoroughly 'brain-washed'.

2 Mar.—**Budget.** Sir Alexander Grantham, Governor, told the Legislative Council in his Budget address that the trade figures in terms of

Hong Kong (*continued*)

value were 11 per cent below those of 1953 but slightly higher in volume. The colony had faithfully carried out its obligations towards the United Nations and as a result exports to China had dropped a further \$315 m. and were \$1,000 m. lower than in 1950.

The revised estimates showed a surplus of more than \$21 m. which probably would be exceeded. The draft estimates for the current year provided for a deficit of \$32 m., largely due to the immense public works programme.

Mr Clarke, Financial Secretary, said that the revenue had exceeded \$400 m. for the first time. Expenditure on education had been doubled since 1951-2. Local manufactures had become the largest contributors to the national income and accounted for 30 per cent of the colony's exports thus making the entrepôt trade two-sided.

HUNGARY. 20 Feb.—Mr Nagy. Budapest Radio announced that Mr Nagy, Prime Minister, was seriously ill.

Ministerial Appointments. It was also announced that Dr Jozsef Roman had succeeded Mr Zsoldas, who had recently died, as Minister of Health, and that two new deputy Ministers had been appointed to the propaganda ministry, one of them Mr Gyula Kallai, a former Foreign Minister who had spent some time in a concentration camp for deviation.

27 Feb.—Ministerial Change. It was announced that Mr Janosi, son-in-law of Mr Nagy, had been relieved of his post of chief deputy Minister in the Ministry of Popular Culture and replaced by Mr Hon.

INDIA. 21 Feb.—Formosa. Dr Prasad, President, addressing both Houses of Parliament at the inaugural session, said that his Government recognized only one Government in China—the People's Republic—and considered that its claims were justified. He hoped that the Geneva conference would set an example for the settlement of international disputes.

25 Feb.—China and Formosa. Mr Nehru, Prime Minister, speaking in the Lower House, said that India recognized only one China and could not recognize two. Formosa had been part of China for hundreds of years, and the situation could not be changed because somebody did not approve of the existing Chinese Government. The off-shore islands were also part of China, and no country could tolerate an enemy sitting on islands nearby and bombarding them.

Mr Nehru said he could understand but not approve, military alliances between great Powers, but not between great Powers and 'little pygmy countries'. Such alliances had no value in the nuclear age and tended to make small countries dependent.

28 Feb.—Budget. Sir Chintamun Deshmukh, Finance Minister, presenting the Budget, estimated a higher deficit of 3,400 m. rupees (£255 m.), against a deficit of 2,080 m. rupees (£156 m.) in the current year. Of the estimated expenditure of 4,989.3 m. rupees (£374,197,500), 2,026.8 m. would be spent on defence. The total expenditure on de-

velopment would be 753 m. rupees—an increase of about 50 per cent over the current year. Mr Deshmukh said that India's sterling balances declined by 1,530 m. rupees. In the coming year the cash balance would have no margin left and the deficit of 3,400 m. would be met by the issue of Treasury bills. The Budget provided for increases in income and super tax; a 25 per cent investment allowance for machinery and plant; increases in excise duty on most qualities of cotton goods and a 10 per cent excise duty on certain other goods; and a reduction of export duty on cotton cloth from 10 per cent to $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

1 Mar.—U.S. Aid to South-east Asia. Mr Stassen, director of the United States Foreign Operations Administration, said at a press conference in Delhi that the Manila treaty allowed for aid to friendly countries which were not members of S.E.A.T.O. The nature of the aid would depend upon the Asian countries themselves. The U.S. Government would continue to fulfil its bilateral aid agreements while, in consultation with Asian Governments, preparation would be made for a new regional fund to cover an enormous area stretching from Afghanistan to Japan and Korea. The American intention was to co-operate with Asian countries in an endeavour to increase industrialization and raise living standards. A special secretariat or organizational headquarters might have to be set up to administer the proposed regional fund, and perhaps the Colombo Plan organization could be used or expanded, but the U.S. Government would use the 'mechanism' that the Asian countries wanted. To succeed, the plan would have to be a partnership of nations working together for their mutual interests. It was expected that European countries would take part. Mr Stassen expected the discussions to last from six to eighteen months.

2 Mar.—Great Britain. Sir Anthony Eden, British Foreign Secretary, arrived in Delhi for discussions with Mr Nehru.

INDO-CHINA. 27 Feb.—Mr Dulles, United States Secretary of State, arrived in Laos for conversations with the Crown Prince, the Prime Minister, and the Foreign Minister.

2 Mar.—Cambodia. King Norodom Sihanouk announced in a broadcast his decision to abdicate in favour of his father, Prince Suramarit. He said that certain political parties, among them the Democratic Party of Son Ngoc Thanh, had approached the International Armistice Commission with the intention of preventing him from continuing his work.

It was understood that King Norodom had submitted to the International Armistice Commission proposals for a new constitution, but the Commission had found them discriminatory against former dissident Cambodians and therefore contrary to the Geneva agreements.

2 Mar.—Laos. The Laotian Prime Minister said that his discussions with Mr Dulles, U.S. Secretary of State, had been concerned solely with the procedure of American aid.

North Vietnam. Viet Minh Radio announced that the railway link connecting Hanoi with the Chinese frontier town of Munankwan had been completed.

IRAQ. 24 Feb.—Turco-Iraqi Treaty. The Turco-Iraqi treaty was signed in Baghdad. It had a validity of five years, and was renewable for further five-year periods. Notice of withdrawal might be given six months in advance of the end of any such period. The treaty stated that it was based on Article 51 of the United Nations Charter and that it was open to any State which was actively concerned in the defence of the Middle East. Article 6 of the treaty said that a permanent council at ministerial level would be set up when at least four Powers became parties to the pact. The treaty allowed any acceding party to conclude special defence agreements with one or more other parties to the pact.

Statement by Turkish Prime Minister (*see Turkey*).

26 Feb.—In the debate on the Iraqi-Turco pact in the Chamber of Deputies Nuri es-Said said it was hoped that Britain and the United States would adhere to the treaty and that Pakistan and Persia would also be welcomed. Iraq would terminate the Anglo-Iraqi treaty of 1930 when other countries intimated their wish to join the pact. Iraq's co-operation with other signatories would be based on three principles: (1) Iraq would not accept commitments outside her own frontiers, or outside the frontiers of Arab countries as laid down in the Arab security pact; (2) the Iraq Government was solely responsible for the defence of Iraq and no one could dictate conditions to Iraq for co-operation; (3) Iraq's foreign policy was based on full sovereignty and equal rights between the contracting parties. The Prime Minister also said that Iraq would continue the fullest co-operation with the Arab States whether inside or outside the Arab League. In regard to Article 5 of the treaty which said that no country not fully recognized by the two main contracting parties would be allowed to join the pact, he said this applied particularly to Israel who was not recognized by Iraq. Both Houses of Parliament ratified the treaty by overwhelming majorities.

27 Feb.—King Feisal gave the royal assent to the Turco-Iraqi treaty.

2 Mar.—Egypt. The acting Foreign Minister telephoned to the Iraqi Ambassador in Cairo asking him to assure the Egyptian Foreign Minister of Iraq's fullest support in connection with the Israeli attack in the Gaza region.

ISRAEL. 17 Feb.—Return of Mr Ben Gurion. It was announced that Mr Pinhas Lavon, Defence Minister, had resigned and that Mr Ben Gurion, the former Prime Minister, had been offered the portfolio by the Prime Minister and had accepted it.

20 Feb.—Mr Lavon. An official statement said that Mr Lavon had resigned the defence portfolio after the Prime Minister had rejected his plans for a complete reorganization of the army.

27 Feb.—Turco-Iraqi Pact. The Government, in an official statement on the Turco-Iraqi pact, referred to the 'hostile intent towards Israel' in the exchange of letters between Nuri es-Said and Mr Menzies, and said that the treaty was 'liable to encourage Arab belligerent tendencies, foment aggressive ambitions, and undermine the peace and stability of the area'.

28 Feb.—Border Engagement. A serious engagement was fought between Israeli and Egyptian forces in the Gaza area.

The engagement began ninety minutes after an Israeli Army spokesman had accused the Egyptian Army of sending espionage and sabotage units into Israel to blow up bridges and other objectives and to observe military movements.

1 Mar.—The United Nations truce supervision organization said that Israel army units had penetrated Egyptian territory as far as Gaza railway station and had carried out an attack with mortar fire, grenades, and automatic weapons on the Egyptians, killing thirty-seven and wounding thirty.

An Israeli Army announcement said that an Egyptian unit opened fire from Israeli territory against an approaching Israeli unit which returned the fire and pursued the Egyptians some distance into their territory. The Israelis had suffered a number of casualties. (*For Egyptian reaction, see Egypt*).

2 Mar.—Mr Sharett, Prime Minister, told the Knesset that if Egypt kept proclaiming that a state of war existed between Egypt and Israel—a claim repudiated by the highest United Nations authority—she must face the consequences, which included armed clashes.

Mr Sharett also said that the Iraqi-Turkish pact was the result of U.S. and British policy and that these two countries were therefore inevitably responsible for the effect of their activities upon the position of each State within the region. This raised the question of an effective guarantee for Israel's frontiers and her defence against possible aggression. For months Israel had been conducting discussions with both countries concerning military aid and mutual defence arrangements with Arab States. Against that background Israel claimed 'guarantees as well as help to increase her defensive potential'.

Egyptian request for Security Council meeting (*see Egypt*).

ITALY. 18 Feb.—Anglo-British communiqué (*see Great Britain*).

24 Feb.—Unemployment. The Ministry of Labour published statistics which showed that, in December 1954 in the two categories covering persons previously employed and young persons under twenty-one or in search of their first job, the number of unemployed was 2,097,045—an increase of 8·3 per cent since November.

28 Feb.—Liberal Party. The national council of the Liberal Party reached a compromise on the internal differences which had arisen following the agreement of the party's Ministers with the Prime Minister's new land tenure proposals. The threat of a Government crisis was thereby averted. The compromise accepted the agreement reached by the Liberal Ministers over the new Bill, but reserved the right to continue to press the party's point of view in the formulation of additional points not covered by the Cabinet agreement. The left wing of the party abstained from voting.

JAPAN. 18 Feb.—United States. It was learnt that the Cabinet had rejected the United States Government's request for repayment of the

Japan (*continued*)

\$59 m. loan under the agricultural surplus agreement in thirty to forty years at the current dollar exchange rates. It had decided to ask for a reconsideration of the matter.

27 Feb.—General Election. Voting in the general election showed a record poll of 75·8 per cent.

28 Feb.—The results of the election were announced as follows: Democrats (Mr Hatoyama's party) 185 seats; Liberals 112; left-wing Socialists 89; right-wing Socialists 67; Labour-Farmers (pro-Communist) 4; Communists 2; minor parties (Conservative) 2; Independents (mainly Conservative) 6.

The results represented a gain of 62 for the Democrats, of 15 for the left-wing Socialists, and of 6 for the right-wing Socialists; and a loss of 69 for the Liberals.

JORDAN. **21 Feb.**—Visit of King Hussein to Egypt (*see Egypt*).

27 Feb.—The Government accepted a suggestion made by Colonel Brewster, chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission, that the local commanders' agreement should be implemented and put into force as from 1 March.

KENYA. **17 Feb.—Surrender Offer.** Mr Blundell, Minister without Portfolio and Member of the War Council, announced in the Legislative Council that the new surrender terms would be kept open for at least three months from 18 January. The War Council and Government would close the offer at any time if unforeseen circumstances or the military situation required such action.

18 Feb.—A motion by a European elected member urging the earliest possible withdrawal of the surrender offer was defeated without a division in the Legislative Council.

19 Feb.—Kenya Guild. A new organization called the Kenya Guild was formed with the purpose of fostering co-operation between Europeans and Africans. Asians were excluded from membership.

21 Feb.—Banning of Leaflets. The Government banned leaflets written in Kikuyu and signed 'European settlers' which warned terrorists that the writers would seek to ensure that terrorists got their just deserts. Penalties of two years' imprisonment or a fine of £500 or both were imposed for infringement of the ban.

Emergency Figures. It was announced that in the week ended 19 February thirty-four terrorists had been killed and nineteen captured.

22 Feb.—Military forces began a new operation called First Flute in the Mount Kenya forests.

23 Feb.—British financial assistance to Kenya (*see Great Britain*).

KOREA. **21 Feb.**—At a meeting of the military armistice commission the senior United Nations delegate accused the Communists of illegally bringing MIG jet fighters into North Korea since the armistice. He referred to the incident of 5 February when Communist jet aircraft

attacked a U.S. reconnaissance plane and escorting Sabres, and said the attacking aircraft had been followed by radar from their take-off to their return to an air base in North Korea.

28 Feb.—South Korea. The police announced that they had arrested sixteen men involved in a North Korean plot to overthrow the South Korean Government.

LEBANON. 20 Feb.—Egypt. Major Salem, Egyptian Minister of National Guidance, arrived with a message from Colonel Nasser, Egyptian Prime Minister, for President Shamoun.

MALAYA. 26 Feb.—Sir Anthony Eden arrived in Singapore for consultations with British diplomats in south-east Asia.

2 Mar.—Sir Anthony Eden said in a broadcast from Kuala Lumpur that the basis of British policy in Asia was recognition of the changes which had taken place and acceptance of the Asian countries' wish to develop their lives in their own way. The purpose of the Manila pact was to attempt to draw certain clear defensive lines—for which Britain could not be blamed after her experiences. But Britain was equally anxious to work with nations who did not share her views on such security arrangements.

British policy towards China, he said, was based on a realistic view of her place in world affairs. There was no wish to interfere in the internal affairs of China, but that must work both ways. It was the aim of British policy to end the fighting in that part of the world. The consequences of continued fighting would be catastrophic.

Britain was still fully behind the Colombo plan: he was glad to see evidence of a steadily rising standard of living in Malaya. The chief task of the British Government in Malaya was to clear away the obstacles to self-government. That involved: (1) suppression of terrorism; (2) putting the people of Malaya on guard against Communist infiltration and giving them security against any such assaults; (3) ensuring a stable economy and a stable administration; (4) establishing accord between races; (5) providing a secure system of defence.

MALTA. 2 Mar.—The Governor enacted the ordinance conferring privileges on the headquarters staff of the allied forces in the Mediterranean similar to those granted in other N.A.T.O. countries. It differed only in one or two minor respects from the draft of 26 October 1954. The ordinance covered the exemption from certain customs duties of N.A.T.O. staff serving in Malta.

The Governor, in a press statement, said that he had been advised by two successive Commanders-in-Chief that the N.A.T.O. privileges could no longer be postponed if headquarters were to work at full efficiency. Full consideration had been given to the Assembly's resolution of 5 November 1954. The Maltese objections had been raised because the decision had been taken without consultation with the local Government, but as it had been decided that the question of privileges was a reserved matter the question of consultation did not arise.

Malta (*continued*)

There would be full opportunity for the Maltese delegates to discuss the matter in all-party talks with the Colonial Secretary after the election.

Dr Borg Olivier, Prime Minister, issued a statement saying that a protest had been sent to the Governor complaining that the ordinance had been issued while the people were concentrating on the election. His action, he said, was irreconcilable with his assurance that he would not feel justified in proceeding with the ordinance if public opinion in Malta showed itself strongly against it.

MOROCCO. 28 Feb.—Two Moroccans were killed and seven seriously wounded in four terrorist attacks in Casablanca. A home-made bomb exploded outside the home of a Moroccan industrialist but caused no casualties.

1 Mar.—Sherif Moulay Idriss, founder of the pro-French Democratic Party of Free Men, was shot dead in Casablanca. His two assailants escaped.

NEPAL. 18 Feb.—King Tribhuvan, who was in France, sent to Nepal a proclamation vesting full powers in Crown Prince Mahendra.

The Crown Prince deprived the Prime Minister of responsibility for the anti-corruption department, the central intelligence bureau, records of Government appointments and promotions, and the public service commission, and took over responsibility for those departments himself.

21 Feb.—Crown Prince Mahendra called on all political parties, except illegal organizations such as the Communist Party, to submit to him within three weeks their suggestions for solving the political and administrative problems of Nepal, together with a list of prominent party members.

2 Mar.—Crown Prince Mahendra accepted the resignation of Mr Koirala's Government. In a royal proclamation which was broadcast he said that he was introducing direct rule 'for the time being' because of special conditions following the Cabinet's resignation. During that period he would try to establish a Government which would take into consideration the 'voice of the people'.

NEW ZEALAND. 21 Feb.—Joint U.K.-New Zealand heavy water project (*see Great Britain*).

PAKISTAN. 20 Feb.—**Quetta Earthquake.** Serious earthquake shocks at Quetta destroyed at least 100 houses and caused a number of deaths.

Turkey. A senior Government official stated that President Bayar of Turkey and Mr Mohammed Ali, Prime Minister of Pakistan, had completed plans for a series of defence alliances to link countries of the Middle East in a collective security system. He said that treaties were being negotiated with Persia, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Yemen,

and that efforts would be continued to bring Egypt and Saudi Arabia into the system. President Bayar was on a visit to Pakistan.

21 Feb.—Great Britain. Sir Anthony Eden, British Foreign Secretary, stopped in Karachi on his way to the S.E.A.T.O. Conference and had talks with Mr Mohammed Ali.

22 Feb.—The Federal Court ordered the Sind Court to stay the writs it had issued on 9 February restoring Tamizuddin Khan to the presidency of the Constituent Assembly and dismissing five Cabinet Ministers from office (*see No. 4, p. 123*).

PERSIA. 23 Feb.—Visit of Shah to Britain (*see Great Britain*).

24 Feb.—Soviet-Persian Agreement. The Majlis approved by 88 votes to 1 the Soviet-Persian agreement signed on 2 December 1954 providing for the payment of Soviet war debts and for joint mapping of the frontier. Two deputies, Mr Kashani and Mr Bina, appealed to the Soviet Government to withhold support for the Tudeh Party and to recognize Persian sovereignty and all its implications, particularly the shaping of foreign policy demanded by Persian interests.

Loans Bill. The Majlis also approved, by 87 votes to 7 with 7 abstentions a loans Bill for \$150 m. from the United States and £10 m. from Britain for financing public works and meeting a budgetary deficit.

27 Feb.—Visit of Shah and Queen Soraya to west Germany (*see Germany*).

PERU. 20 Feb.—Seizure of U.S. Vessels. Peruvian warships seized eight United States fishing vessels for catching tunny within 200 miles of the coast.

21 Feb.—The eight United States fishing vessels were released after payment of export duty on all the fish caught within the 200-mile limit.

POLAND. 18 Feb.—Statement by Hermann Field (*see Great Britain*).

RHODESIA AND NYASALAND. 17 Feb.—Viscounty conferred on Sir Godfrey Huggins (*see Great Britain*).

Northern Rhodesia. Copperbelt Dispute. The North Rhodesia Chamber of Mines issued a statement saying that the African mine-workers' strike had clearly failed in its objective of forcing the companies to accede to 'irresponsible and unrealistic demands'. Some 10,000 men were back at work and the number was increasing steadily. Production had risen rapidly and had reached two-thirds of normal output. At this level the mines were no longer losing money. It declared that the cause of African advancement was being hampered and confused by 'this ill-advised strike'.

25 Feb.—Northern Rhodesia. Copperbelt Dispute. The executive of the Mine Officials and Salaried Staffs Association rejected the Rhodesian Selection Trust scheme for African advancement on the copperbelt (*see p. 124*). It said the Anglo-American Corporation advancement scheme was the only one so far produced which could form

Rhodesia and Nyasaland (*continued*)

the basis for discussion. This suggested that the number of Africans to be allowed to advance to jobs held by the lowest paid Europeans should be limited to 5 per cent of the European pay-roll on 1 January 1955. (The Rhodesian Selection Trust scheme imposed no numerical limit but was based on an ability bar.)

27 Feb.—The Northern Rhodesia African Mineworkers' Union informed the Chamber of Mines that their members were prepared to return to work provided that they were re-engaged at the old terms of service and that their wages dispute was referred to arbitration.

1 Mar.—**Kariba Scheme.** Sir Godfrey Huggins, Prime Minister, announced in the Federal Parliament the Government's decision to give priority to the Kariba hydro-electric project on the Zambezi river, in preference to the Kafue scheme in Northern Rhodesia. The estimated cost of the Kariba project was £54 m. He said the decision was final, subject only to the final appraisal of Mr Coyne, the French expert, and to a favourable opinion from the International Bank's economic mission.

Copperbelt Dispute. The Chamber of Mines informed the African Mineworkers' Union of its willingness to re-engage all the Union's members at the old rates of pay, with pensions, a long service bonus, and to leave their rights intact provided that the strike was called off.

2 Mar.—The Union instructed its members to resume work immediately.

A meeting of the Nchanga branch of the Northern Rhodesian European Mineworkers' Union strongly criticized mining companies' terms for the return to work of African miners, and decided unanimously to recommend to the Union that the recent ballot conceding some advancement to Africans should be set aside and a new ballot held.

RUMANIA. 17 Feb.—Swiss statement on Rumanian demand for extradition of four Rumanians (*see Switzerland*).

Exchange of Notes *re* Mr Cimbu's request for asylum (*see Denmark*).

18 Feb.—Swiss Note on attack on Rumanian Legation in Berne (*see Switzerland*).

SAAR FREE TERRITORY. 21 Feb.—A strike for higher wages by metallurgical union workers brought out 70,000 employees. It was the first strike since the period before Hitler.

24 Feb.—The principal trade unions called a twenty-four-hour general strike for the next day in protest against the use of tear gas and fire hoses by the police to disperse a demonstration by steel strikers.

25 Feb.—The twenty-four-hour general strike was generally observed by most industrial workers but not by the Christian trade unions.

S.E.A.T.O. CONFERENCE. 23 Feb.—A conference of the Foreign Ministers of the signatory Powers of the South-East Asia Treaty Organization opened in Bangkok. It was attended by the following Foreign Ministers: Sir Anthony Eden (Britain), Mr Dulles (United States), Mr Casey (Australia), Mr Macdonald (New Zealand), and Mr

Garcia (Philippines). Pakistan was represented by her Prime Minister, Mr Mohammed Ali, and Siam by her Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Marshal Pibul Songgram and Prince Wan. M. Bonnet, former French Ambassador to Washington, represented France.

25 Feb.—On the conclusion of the conference, a statement was issued which said that the treaty had entered into force on 19 February 1955 following the deposit of instruments of ratification. The Council reiterated that any military arrangements that might be made were purely defensive. It reaffirmed its adherence to the Pacific Charter and to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, and stressed the need to maintain the authority of freely-constituted governments. It therefore condemned not only warlike action but also aggression by subversion. Recognizing the continuing threats to peace and security in the area, the Council agreed on the need for steps to strengthen the common defence and on the need for co-operation to combat Communist subversive activities.

The Council agreed also on the importance of implementing the treaty article which provided for the strengthening of free institutions and for co-operation in economic measures including technical assistance. Arrangements were made for periodic meetings of economic experts who would advise Council representatives on such measures. The Council noted with interest the statement of the U.S. delegates on the peaceful uses of atomic energy and welcomed the proposed discussions relating to further co-operation and assistance in the atomic energy programmes directed towards the raising of living standards of members.

The statement reaffirmed the determination of member Governments to support Cambodia, Laos, and south Vietnam in maintaining their freedom and independence, and expressed the hope that further assistance would be offered by member Governments to the three States.

In order to implement the treaty, the Council decided that the Governments should be represented on the Council by their foreign ministers or designated representatives, and that the Council should meet at least once a year, usually in the treaty area and that decisions should be by unanimous agreement. To assure close and continuous co-operation when the Council was not in session, the Council would designate the council representatives who would have their seat in Bangkok. The representatives might make agreed recommendations to the Council, or, when the Council was not in session, to member Governments. They would ensure exchange of information and close co-ordination of planning, and would arrange for a secretariat to assist them. One of their first tasks should be to arrange meetings of specially qualified personnel, designated by member Governments, to assist them in considering means of strengthening co-operation in combating subversion and infiltration. The Council representatives were also requested to explore the opportunities for increasing cultural and technical co-operation among the member Governments and to submit recommendations to the next meeting of the Council.

The Council's military advisers met on 24 and 25 February and it was

S.E.A.T.O. Conference (*continued*)

arranged that their staff planners should meet in Manila in April 1955 and that shortly thereafter the military advisers would meet again in Bangkok.

Finally, the statement said that Council members were united in believing that their Governments' common efforts were contributing positively to the peace and security of the area, both for member Governments and other free nations in the area. The Council hoped that these free nations would associate themselves with their work in the near future.

SIAM. 21 Feb.—Burma. Talks began in Chiengmai between the Burmese Ambassador and senior officials of the Siamese police on border problems, especially that of the remaining Chinese Nationalist forces on the Burmese side.

S.E.A.T.O. Conference. Marshal Pibul Songgram, Prime Minister, said at a press conference that Communist infiltration in Siam itself was not great and was rigorously suppressed by the Government. The quarters from which Siam expected aggression or subversion included the Thai autonomous area in Yunnan province, where there was a military academy and an army of Thais 20,000 strong. Laos, and the northern province of Phong Saly and Sam Neua were also possible bases for aggression.

Siam, he said, would welcome the setting up of the S.E.A.T.O. Council headquarters in Bangkok but would not insist on it. If it was decided to have bases in Siam, they would be welcome, but any aggression would first be dealt with by the Siamese forces, and S.E.A.T.O. would be called in only when necessary.

23 Feb.—S.E.A.T.O. Conference *q.v.*

SOUTH AFRICA. 17 Feb.—Defence. Mr Erasmus, Defence Minister, told the House of Assembly that three main problems had been discussed at the defence conference in London in 1954—nuclear weapons, the Simonstown naval base, and the African defence organization. He was now busy with plans to meet the altered situation. Simonstown had been discussed as part of the wider question of the defence of sea routes in the event of Communist aggression. Subsequently senior British and South African naval officers had conferred and their report was being studied. He (Mr Erasmus) had emphasized to the London conference that the lack of a defence organization for anti-Communist countries with interests in Africa south of the Sahara was a serious defence gap for South Africa. The idea had been well received and the British Government was considering the matter.

Transvaal. After a stormy debate the Transvaal provincial council decided by 41 votes to 18 to remove the royal coat of arms from the council chamber and hang a painting of Kruger in its place.

SPAIN. 27 Feb.—The Succession. General Franco stated in an interview granted to *Arriba*, the Falangist organ, that his successor would be

required to accept and preserve the existing political structure. An indispensable condition for the 'restoration of a dynastic branch that might provide continuity to the regime' must be 'complete identification' with the Falangist movement. Explaining the position and powers of the Council of the Kingdom in regard to the question of the succession, he said it would be faithfully representative of the nation; the Cortes, Church, Army, Falange, judiciary, universities, liberal professions, syndicates and municipalities were represented on it. General Franco said that any claims of a Carlist or traditionalist pretender were of little importance in the country.

SWITZERLAND. 17 Feb.—Rumania. The Department of Justice and Police issued a statement on the Rumanian Government's demand for the extradition of the four Rumanians involved in the attack on the Rumanian Legation on 15 February. It said that the attack, in so far as it violated the Swiss penal code, fell within Swiss jurisdiction. The fact that the Legation enjoyed extraterritorial rights did not, in the official view, affect the legal issue, the site being 'the national territory of the Confederation'.

18 Feb.—The Government, in a reply to the second Rumanian Note of protest, stated that as there was no treaty of extradition between Switzerland and Rumania the four men under arrest would not be extradited but would be proceeded against in accordance with Swiss and international law.

21 Feb.—U.S. statement on watch import duties (*see United States*).

SYRIA. 21 Feb.—Sabri Assali, Prime Minister designate, announced that Syria would not conclude any alliance with a non-Arab State.

26 Feb.—Iraqi-Turkish Pact. Major Salem, Egyptian Minister for National Guidance, said in Damascus that 'with Iraq's signature of the alliance with Turkey the Arab collective security pact no longer exists'. Egypt intended to call for a new Arab military, political, and economic pact comprising the States which did not join the Turco-Iraqi pact. 'There will,' he said, 'be no room for Iraq in such a pact while Nuri es-Said remains Premier.'

27 Feb.—Disorders. Two persons were killed and eight persons injured in Deir es Zor, a town near the Iraqi border, when supporters of the Baath Socialist Party who were demonstrating against the Iraqi-Turkish pact clashed with supporters of the Syrian Popular Party. Troops were called out to end the clash.

2 Mar.—Egyptian-Syrian Agreement. An agreement for the creation of a new Arab defence alliance was signed in Damascus by Major Salem and Brigadier Riad for Egypt and by the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister for Syria.

TUNISIA. 28 Feb.—Five hundred unemployed ransacked bakery stores in the market at Tozeur in southern Tunisia after demanding work from the French authorities. Three were arrested.

French decision to send food to relieve famine (*see France*).

TURKEY. 17 Feb.—Soviet Espionage. The Grand National Assembly confirmed the death sentences passed by a court martial on two Soviet citizens convicted of espionage.

20 Feb.—Greece. Turkey and Greece signed an agreement for the joint execution of works for the regularization of the rivers Maritza and Tunja forming the boundary line in Thrace.

Turco-German Trade Agreement. Turkey and west Germany signed a trade agreement in Ankara based on the provisional agreement signed on 22 December. It provided for a further grant of credit to Turkey of 225 m. marks, guaranteed by the Hermes organization, to be used in capital investment.

21 Feb.—Visit of President to Pakistan (*see Pakistan*).

24 Feb.—Signing of Turco-Iraqi pact (*see Iraq*).

Iraqi-Turkish Pact. The Grand National Assembly's foreign affairs committee approved the Turco-Iraqi pact, after a speech by Mr Menderes, Prime Minister, in which he said that the way was open for Britain, the United States, and Persia to enter the pact. Arab countries also might enter, but not Israel.

26 Feb.—The Grand National Assembly unanimously ratified the Turco-Iraqi pact.

27 Feb.—U.S.S.R. In a survey of foreign affairs to the Grand National Assembly, Mr Köprülü, Foreign Minister, referred to Mr Molotov's recent statement that Turkey had not responded to recent Soviet overtures and said it was a fact that Turkey had become wiser after the hard lessons of the past and was not satisfied with verbal demonstrations of friendship but expected acts to support them. In any case Turco-Soviet relations could not be taken apart from the general trend of international affairs.

UNITED NATIONS

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

23 Feb.—A supplement to the ninth annual report showed that during the seven months from July 1954 to January 1955 loans to a total value of nearly \$150 m. had been granted to Austria, Belgium, Ceylon, Colombia, El Salvador, India, Mexico, and Peru. The new loans brought the total lending to \$2,063,858,464 (£737,092,308).

Disarmament Commission

25 Feb.—Meetings of the disarmament sub-committee opened in London in accordance with the Assembly's resolution of 4 November 1954. The delegates were: Mr Nutting (Great Britain), Mr Lodge (United States), M. Moch (France), Mr Robertson (Canada), and Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Union.

26 Feb.—Publication of Soviet proposals (*see Great Britain*).

1 Mar.—Soviet denial of leakage (*see U.S.S.R.*).

Trusteeship Council

24 Feb.—Tanganyika. The Council began its annual review of conditions in Tanganyika.

Sir Alan Burns (U.K.) strongly criticized the report of the U.N. visiting mission which had spent six months in Tanganyika in the previous autumn. He said the mission had seen only a small part of the territory and a fraction of the population. It had reached conclusions and made proposals diametrically opposed to the considered policy of the Administration. Great Britain as the trustee of the United Nations was anxious to receive constructive criticism from the Council, but she would not be deflected from her considered policy by criticism based on insufficient knowledge and experience. The mission's report could only result in harm to the inhabitants of the territory and the United Kingdom would be compelled to oppose virtually every major recommendation in the report.

Mr Sears, the U.S. delegate who had been a member of the visiting mission, said he had been instructed to reverse his support for a timetable for the attainment of self-government in Tanganyika.

UNITED STATES. 18 Feb.—Foreign Trade Bill. An attempt in the House of Representatives to send the foreign trade Bill back to committee was defeated by 206 votes to 199, and the Bill was then passed by 295 votes to 110. The President had written to Republican leaders promising that tariff cuts would be gradual and selective and no industry would be placed in jeopardy.

Formosa. Commenting on the Soviet proposal for a six-Power conference on Formosa (*see pp. 133-4*), the State Department said it considered no useful purpose would be served by a conference on Formosa from which Nationalist China was excluded.

Japanese rejection of terms for loan repayment (*see Japan*).

Atomic Tests. The first of a series of nuclear test explosions was made in Nevada.

20 Feb. et seq.—Seizure of fishing vessels by Peru (*see Peru*).

21 Feb.—Formosa. Admiral Radford, chairman of the joint Chiefs of Staff, said in a press interview that it was 'quite impossible' for the Chinese Communists to launch a major operation against Formosa.

Switzerland. The Government announced that it would negotiate tariff concessions with Switzerland to compensate for the 50 per cent increase in duties on imported watches.

23 Feb.—S.E.A.T.O. Conference q.v.

Formosa. President Eisenhower told the press that the United States was seeking every possible means for a cease-fire with justice to everyone in the Formosa region.

Korea. The State Department said that the two Communist jet fighters destroyed by American Sabres on 5 February were shot down over North Korean territory.

25 Feb.—Tax Bill. The House of Representatives passed by 242 votes to 175 a bill sponsored by the Democrats and opposed by the Republicans which included a proposal to take \$20 off income tax from January 1956. The Bill maintained corporation and excise taxes at their existing level.

27 Feb.—Visit of Mr Dulles to Laos (*see United States*).

United States (*continued*)

1 Mar.—Mr Stassen on U.S. plan for aid to Asian countries (*see India*).

2 Mar.—**U.S.S.R.** The State Department announced that a strong protest had been made to the Soviet Government against the expulsion from Russia of Father Bissonnette, a Roman Catholic priest, who had been ordered to leave by 5 March. (The Russian action was thought to have been inspired by the State Department's refusal to extend a two-month visa issued to Archbishop Boris of the Russian Orthodox Church of North and South America for a visit to the United States. His request had been supported by the Soviet Government.)

Anti-Communist Measure. The post office, acting under a legal opinion of the Department of Justice, began withholding delivery to private American subscribers (but not to educational institutions or Government agencies) of the two chief Soviet newspapers, *Pravda* and *Izvestia*, as part of a programme aimed at cutting off the flow of Communist propaganda into the United States.

URUGUAY. 1 Mar.—**New Government.** The Government elected in November 1954 took office under Senor Luis Batlle Berres, who was formally inaugurated as President of the National Council of Government. Dr Batlle Berres said his Government's chief duty was to guarantee all liberties, protect all rights, and fulfil the constitution and laws of Parliament.

U.S.S.R. 18 Feb.—**Disarmament.** Moscow Radio, in a broadcast on the forthcoming conference in London of the United Nations disarmament sub-committee, said that the Soviet Union considered that removal of the threat of an atomic war was the most important task of the United Nations, and it proposed that States should undertake: (1) to destroy completely stocks of atomic and hydrogen bombs and to use atomic materials exclusively for peaceful purposes; and (2) not to increase the number of their armed forces and armaments above the level of 1 January 1955, and not to increase military budgets above the level of 1955. It said the Soviet Government also favoured the setting up of an appropriate international control for the supervision of the decisions; and it proposed that the United Nations should call a world conference on a universal limitation of armaments and prohibition of atomic weapons before the end of 1955.

21 Feb.—Moscow Radio broadcast an article by General Vladimir Kurassov, former Commander of the Soviet troops in Austria, in which he said that Soviet artillery had greater fire-power and greater range than American artillery.

22 Feb.—Marshal Zhukov, Defence Minister, in a speech to mark the thirty-seventh anniversary of the Soviet armed forces, said: 'The aggressive forces headed by the United States are setting up military blocs, trying by every means to revive German militarism and openly preparing a new war against the Soviet Union and China. Under such conditions the Communist Party and the Soviet Government are taking

all necessary measures to provide a sure and reliable defence and security for our motherland.'

24 Feb.—*Pravda* criticized both the Ministry of Electric Power Stations, headed by Mr Malenkov, and the Ministry for Construction of Electric Power Stations headed by Mr Loginov. The former Ministry was accused of inefficiency and backward ideas, and both of refusing to see the advantages of using concrete instead of steel in vital sections of the Kuibyshev hydro-electric power stations.

Disarmament Conference. *Pravda* criticized the exclusion of India and Communist China from the London disarmament conference.

25 Feb.—*Pravda* accused the Ministry responsible for oil production of failing to reach the 1954 targets in many areas.

London disarmament talks (see *United Nations, Disarmament Commission*).

26 Feb.—Publication of Soviet disarmament proposals (see *Great Britain*).

28 Feb.—**Great Britain.** The Government sent a further Note to Britain rejecting the argument of the British reply of 26 January that the Paris agreements, being purely defensive, were not incompatible with the Anglo-Soviet treaty, and repeating the gist of the previous Soviet Note of 20 December 1954. It claimed that 'Britain's dangerous policy of reviving German militarism . . . completely contradicts the aims of the treaty', including that of post-war collaboration to prevent German aggression. It repeated that full responsibility for the annulment of the Anglo-Soviet treaty would rest with the British Government.

Government Changes. Moscow Radio announced that the Supreme Soviet had appointed three new Deputy Premiers and four new Vice-Premiers. The new Deputy Premiers were: Mr Mikoyan, who resigned as Minister of Trade in January, Mr Pervukhin, and Mr Saburov, chairman of the Gosplan. All three had been Vice-Premiers. Formerly there had been only two Deputy Premiers—Mr Kaganovich and Mr Molotov.

The new Vice-Premiers were Mr P. P. Zavenyagin, Mr V. A. Kucherenko, Mr P. T. Lobanov, and Mr M. V. Khrunichev. All had had only minor ministerial posts. They brought the number of Vice-Premiers to eight, the other four being Mr Malenkov, Mr Tevosyan, Mr Malyshev, and Mr Kosygin.

It was also announced that Mr Malyshev had been put in charge of a group of ministries concerned with machine building and that his former post of Minister of Medium Machine Building had been given to Mr Zavenyagin.

1 Mar.—**Dr Pontecorvo.** Dr Bruno Pontecorvo, the naturalized British atomic scientist who disappeared while on holiday from Britain in 1950, revealed in an article in two Moscow newspapers that he had been working in the Soviet Union since his disappearance.

Disarmament Conference. *Pravda* denied that the Russian delegation had divulged any information from the London disarmament conference. It said the Soviet proposals had been made secret by bourgeois hypocritical propaganda, but in reality they were not secret at all.

U.S.S.R. (continued)

2 Mar.—Government Changes. Moscow Radio announced the dismissal of A. S. Zasyadko, Minister of the Coal Industry, 'because of unsatisfactory work' and his replacement by A. Zademidko (his deputy); also the dismissal of A. I. Kozlov, Minister of State Farms, 'because he failed to cope with the work', and the appointment of Mr Benediktov, Minister of Agriculture, in his place.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Mar. 13-18 Carribean Federation Conference, Trinidad.
,, 29 U.N. Economic and Social Council, New York.
Apr. 17 Cambodian Elections.
May I.C.F.T.U., 4th World Congress, Vienna.
,, 10 World Health Organization Assembly, Mexico.
Aug. 8 (probably) Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, Geneva.

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